



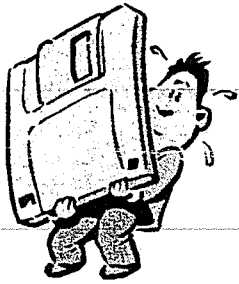
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LEWISHAM DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2000

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Lewisham goes Dot.Com!



Following the rumblings in the last newsletter, we are pleased to announce that the District has its own website. Up

and running since a major PC rebuild, James Hardy now hosts and maintains the site. Thanks are due to Rhiannon Meredith, who in between not revising for her A levels put the backbone of the site together and undertook the impressive task of typing all the practice night details on to the site.

The site provides a variety of useful information, up to date district practice night details, news (if there is any!), links to related sites and contacts for the district. It is well worth a look and should definitely be added to any local ringers favourite list for easy access.

The catch - as there is always one - is the memorable address that it has - you may need a pencil for this

<http://www.callnetuk.com/home/jameshardy/lewishamdistrictnews.htm>

Anyway I strongly recommend that you give a look as it is always has up to date details that the newsletter may not have at the time of going to press. James is always looking for news to include on the site and if you have any comments or suggestions, I'm sure he'd like to hear them.

JRB

"Superlative" win for Lewisham "8"

On Saturday 24th June a band of 8 ringers from the Lewisham District set out on a short ringing outing, and much to their own surprise brought home a trophy.

Peter Swift, James Hardy, Rupert & Cathy Cheeseman, Nick Wilkins, Jeremy Byers, David Holdridge, and Mark Jones negotiated the most tricky part of the day - getting to Hadlow for a practice. Careful planning by the Maidstone District meant that the road had been washed away some weeks in attempt to stop the invasion from Lewisham. After a considerable detour the band met for a practice and blew the cobwebs

Next District Event

Annual District Meeting
Dartford

on

Saturday, 14th October.

Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Names for tea to Esther Correia, (01322 220458) please, by the previous Wednesday.

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off Superlative. Comments about not peaking too early and then peaking at all followed some reasonably indifferent plain courses. Mindful not to peak too early we left for the draw, where our esteemed leader drew us to ring 6th out of 6th.

An hour and half, several cups of tea and slices of cake later we ventured into the ringing room at Linton to ring our plain course of Superlative. The inevitable post mortem followed and James Hardy promptly put us in with a chance of "not coming last".

So on to the judging - comments first. Good, reasonably good, good in parts, problems with 3,4,5, and so on passed from the lips of the judges. Come to band 6 - and the immortal words "this band rang appreciably quicker" -- led to the inevitable smirk and thoughts of "oh no not again".

Anyway I am pleased to announce that the trophy is Lewisham's by the slim margin of 2 faults - clearly the judges Ron Diserens from Dorking and John Harrison from Wokingham liked quicker ringing.

For those interested the results were as follows:

posn	District	rang	faults
1st	Lewisham	6th	63
2nd	Rochester	1st	65
3rd	Ashford	3rd	75
4th	Tonbridge	4th	80
5th	Canterbury	2nd	115
6th	Maidstone	5th	119

Thanks are also due to the band at Linton for the tea and refreshments - rumours of performance enhancing drugs being taken were quashed when someone pointed out that the pub across the road had been shut all afternoon.

JRB.

For heaven' sake, tell Quasimodo to shut up

by Jeremy Clarkson

I'd like to talk this week about an organisation whose roots can be traced back to 1530 and Henry VIII. Today it's staggeringly rich, with a share portfolio £ 2.3 billion, loans worth £ 300m and, excluding its primary business sites, farms, houses and land, worth a further £ 1 billion.

It invests heavily in arms companies, has an annual income of £ 705 m and its boss regularly appears on news bulletins to pontificate.

It all sounds healthy enough, but figures out this week show

that, in the past 10 years, its lost a million customers.

I'm talking about the Church of England and the news that, if the current rate of decline is not checked, churches will be full of nothing but tumbleweed by 2020. The bells will fall silent and, for the first time in 1,800 years of rural Britain will, at last get a lie-in on Sunday morning.

I hate the word campanology. It starts out badly, moves perilously close to campers (which is even worse) and ends up in its fullest form, up there with the bats raising hell at six o'clock in the morning.

Campanologists know full well that we were all wearing beer goggles until 3am, (*personally I say stop being a wimp and party through the night like bellringers do!*) but this in no way stops them from creeping out of their houses before dawn and using three tons of solid brass to wake us all up. This is, and I'm choosing my words very carefully here, just not very Christian.

How would they like it if, on the way home from the pub, I decided to set up a boom box on their front lawn? How would they like a bit of the Doobie Brothers when they are trying to get some sleep?

And it gets worse, because these campanologists are out there now, all over the net, actively encouraging young people to take up the sport. You can even win a Duke of Edinburgh award for bellringing. (*Little do you know - scouts and guide can get awards for it!*) That's just great. When my children are old enough to learn the recorder, or better still the violin, I shall buy them some kind of amplification system and insist they practise in a bellringers garden (*That won't work - we'll either be our ringing or socialising after ringing*).

There's a church in Bradford where the bells have been silent for 10 years. But then, in September 1998, a group of wor-thies decided it would be a good idea to get them going again so they'd be ready to deafen the whole town as the century turned.

These people had no experience, so for 18 months they practised and practised - which must have been just fantastic for people within earshot: i.e. everyone. (*Is this not the man who made a living out of driving very big noisy cars around for a TV program!*).

That's the point of church bells, for heavens sake; to be audible for 100 miles in any direction, to summon people to church. But please, I need enlightening. What's the point when nobody goes any more.

Just 4% of children now go to Sunday school, while in Yorkshire a whopping 94% of adults find something better to do on a Sunday than wear a hat.

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I'd given up. Last year, I outed myself as an agnostic. Sure, I could be wrong and I'll look a bit of a charlie at the pearly gates if that's the case. But hey, the church is based on forgiveness, so I'll be sure to say sorry.

And St Peter will have to let me in, in the same way that his Anglican disciples are so happy to marry people whose previous marriages have ended in divorce. Until then, however, I'll continue to spend my Sunday morning making earplugs out of discarded underpants and burrowing deeper into the most far flung corners of my duvet.

Of course, I know what's coming. People will point out that bellringing in this country dates back to the year dot and is therefore traditional. To which I will say that the burning of witches also dates back to the year dot, along with child slavery, mead, sacrifice, feudal taxation, the divine right of kings and all sorts of unusual malpractices.

It was traditional at one time to feed Christians to the lions, and in Iceland it's traditional in the winter months to eat shark that's been buried in the ground for four months until it starts to ferment. Then, when it's a seething mass of ammonia, it is soaked in urine and devoured. But today most Icelanders I know prefer a Big Mac.

I won't even be shaken by people who forget the tradition issue and argue simply that the bells were here first. Sure, I have no sympathy with those who buy a house near Heathrow and then complain about aircraft noise, but we must remember that there are 16,000 Anglican churches in Britain and that makes it pretty damn hard to escape the din (*the light dawns a little - perhaps that's the ideal!*).

I honestly don't get it. Factories are not allowed to make undue noise, and certainly not at antisocial times. You may not annoy your neighbours with music or even with barking dogs. One man in a remote part of Wales has painted "P*** Off Biggles" in large letters on the roof of his house to ward off low-flying jets, and now the RAF have re-routed their sorties. But here's a tip. If you tell Quasimodo to shut up, he'll tug his ropes even harder.

Unless, and this is a long shot, George Carey can be made to understand that it's the campanologists who are keeping our bums off his pews; that the din is driving us away.

Perhaps if he asks them politely to stop, people will start to see the church as not only a thing of exquisite beauty but also a place for quiet reflection and peace. Rather than an early morning answer to the Ministry of Sound.

Taken from the Sunday Times earlier this year - congratulations go out to the band of ringers who appear to be making Jeremy Clarkson's life hell - keep it up.



Situations Vacant

Editor of District Newsletter

Due to resignation of current editor, a keen individual is sought to take over editorship of Lewisham District Newsletter as soon as possible.

Will have full editorial control over those stories they do receive otherwise would suit someone with vivid imagination or a desire to write a lot of articles about bellringing.

Applications to the current editor, otherwise production of the Newsletter will cease entirely after this issue.

If you would like to discuss what's involved please call Jeremy Byers to discuss it further (020-8289-5675).

PS A handover period can be arranged, help with the mailing lists or any such assistance that anyone who is interested in taking it on may need can be agreed - if your interested PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL

MILLENNIUM EVENTS

On Friday 14th January the Chislehurst and Eltham Ringers met at the Bull's Head Chislehurst for a resoundingly successful Millennium Dinner: thirty people were present. After the excellent meal Peter Skinner presided over a programme of toasts and speeches. Colin Wyld spoke of the 'changes' in the world of ringing since its first major development in the 17th century and outlined the close parallels with changes in society as a whole. Following this, Jean Pailing emphasised the importance of our roots in the Church and made a plea that a convivial gathering such as this one should become an annual event.

The very welcome guest speaker, Roy Hopper, not a ringer himself but with the local historian's appreciation of the contribution of bells to local life, gave a masterly run-through of the major families, the events and buildings which link the locality, particularly Chislehurst and Eltham of course.

Finally, after an able summing up of the evening's proceedings by Len Morley, captain of the Eltham band, a warm tribute was paid to Len Dumper who had inspired and organised the event.

The Learning Curve

Thinking about bellhandling – Feeling the Bell

This month's topic was sparked off by a perceptive remark on the Ringing Education Net discussion list, in response to April's Learning Curve. "In my experience beginners worry a lot about rope length, knots and boxes, when the skill they're after is 'what the bell feels like on the end of the rope'."

Most accomplished ringers would agree that good ringing depends heavily on feeling what the bell is doing, but this remark also recognised something else, that we might lose the message amidst detailed teaching about nuts and bolts of doing this, that or the other. So I thought it might be interesting to see what the "experts" who wrote the books had to say on the subject of feeling. And since ideas about how to teach have probably changed over the years, I looked at books published some while ago, as well as more recent ones.

What the books say.

Over a century ago Jasper Snowdon, in *Ropesight*, wrote about feeling the bell four times in his few pages on bell handling. He says little about learning how to feel, but concludes with "A man should be able to pull off his bell and ... ring it with his eyes shut ... as soon as possible." To do that you must be able to ring by feel!

Between the wars E.S. & M. Powell's *Ringers Handbook* mentions feeling twice in the few pages on bellhandling, though the first is almost by accident.

It justifies exercises like setting the bell at every stroke for "The power of control and feel of balance that the exercise affords".

In mid-century, Albert York-Bramble did not mention 'feel' at all in his rather mechanistic *Ringers Manual of Reference*, but he included some useful exercises to help ringers learn what the bell feels like near the balance, and what vertical movement of the arms feels like.

In *The Tutors Handbook*, written in the seventies and recently updated, Wilf Moreton talks about "feeling... by body rhythm... when the bell should strike". He does not use the word 'feel' extensively, but describes exercises that help develop a better feel. He describes the need 'to move the arms

at the same speed as the rope', which is very much about feel, and the importance of tautness in the muscles before lifting the bell, necessary to feel it near the balance. Rather oddly the comprehensive list of 41 handling faults and how to correct them does not include over pulling, one of the main barriers to feeling what the bell is doing.

A decade later, Norman Chaddock's *Manual of Bell Control* mentions feeling once. It too includes balancing exercises and puts great emphasis on the need to be able to pause the bell just over the balance while ringing, something that can only be done by feel. This is one of the few books that describes teaching handling starting with the bell down, because it helps to develop "a natural cycle of operations".

Peter Hurcombe's *Tower Captain and the Training of Ringers* mentions feeling four times, e.g. adjusting the rope to be able to feel the bell going past the balance, catching the sally earlier for a "better opportunity to feel the weight and movement of the bell". It warns that the instructors pull "masks the feel of... the bell".

In the early nineties, in *Ringing Skills*, John Harrison provocatively says that the main purpose of the rope is not to pull the bell but to feel what the bell is doing. He emphasises the need to feel how the bell swings "blending arm movements to the rhythm of the bell", and to feel the different intervals when hunting.

In the late nineties, Peter Wenham's *Bellringing by Installments* talks about the need to feel the bell through the rope, with great emphasis on the need to avoid tenseness and over pulling.

Richard Pargeter's *One Way to Teach Bell Handling* mentions feeling four times just describing teaching the back-stroke, and the word GENTLY springs from the page. He says "one of the most important things you are trying to teach at this stage is the feel of the bell" and he concludes with "remember you are trying to cultivate the cool, calm and unflappable air".

Finally the *Tower Handbook* mentions feeling over 20 times in the section on teaching bell handling, a dozen times in the section on learning bell handling, and several times more in sections on teaching raising and lowering, and teaching speed control.

So what?

Overall, the experts think feeling is important. Earlier writer talked about it, but gave few clues about how to develop it. Later writers give more information about the methods and techniques. Recent writers discuss feeling more fully, and give advice on techniques.

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How do you learn to feel the bell?

To the lucky ones 'it just comes', but the rest can do several things to make it easier.

- Don't overpull
- Ring rhythmically
- Learn what you expect it to feel like
- Feel what your bell is doing all the time

Not overpulling is essential. If you are pulling hard, and especially if you pull jerkily, all you will feel is your own pull. It is especially important to feel the bell as it rises towards the balance. If faster than you intended, then you need to check a little more and earlier than you would have done, if slower then check a little less.

Once you start overpulling, you get into one of two vicious circles. In the commonest you continually fight to stop the bell going over the balance. Because you pulled too hard (on the down stroke) the bell rushes up to the next stroke and you have to check hard. When your arms are tense it is harder to switch the force on and off, and you end up pulling hard on the down stroke too. And so it goes on.

The other vicious circle affects people ringing big bells with larger wheels than they are used to. The bigger wheel means the rope should rise quite a long way, but you catch the sally too soon and tense your arms ready for the big pull. By starting to pull before the bell gets to the tops of its swing, you stop it getting there. So it keeps dropping, and you manfully keep pulling.

If instead of pulling so soon you felt the rope rise and only pulled when it got to the top of the swing you might be surprised just how far it would rise. You might also be surprised how light it feels as it nears the top - and that makes the point. You must develop a delicate touch or you won't feel what the bell is doing.

A rhythmic style of ringing means that the sense of rhythm within helps you to 'aim for' the next blow based on what has gone before rather than 'waiting for a rope to follow'. The bell cannot respond instantly, so you must anticipate what to do next. Rhythmic ringing gives you a feel for what to expect next.

Learning what to expect is not as difficult as it sounds. You already have an expectation about how the rope will move, and if it deviated widely from that you would notice. So it is a case of refining what you already have to detect more subtle changes. You must also develop an awareness of how what you do to the bell will affect its behaviour.

This all takes practice, and won't happen overnight. So you need to make an effort all the time to detect what the bell is doing by feel.



Yeah, Yeah We heard you say that it's dangerous to let your toes protrude over the edge of the box! There was no need to demonstrate!

What about rope length?

Ringling with a rope that is too long or too short undermines all this and makes feeling more difficult. How do you know the right rope length? - by feel. If your shoulder are pulled out of their sockets it is too short. If everything feels floppy and hands never go very high, then it is too long.

The best length will vary with the bell, the speed of ringing, you and how you are feeling. Looking at where your hands are before they start won't tell you this. You must feel how it is while you are ringing and adjust as you go along. On a bell of weight you need to adjust it between hunting up and down too.

The Reward

There is a virtuous spiral waiting for you. Learn to feel the bell, and you will be more comfortable with it, and get earlier feedback of any handling inaccuracies (much quicker than ropesight or listening) so you can correct them more quickly. Sometimes this can be almost before they happen - ringing with long steady strokes, you can detect and correct before the bell rises to the balance. With handling inaccuracies smoothed out, your ringing will become smoother, more relaxed, confident and predictable.

This in will help you feel more accurately what the bell is doing.

Tail End

There is a bibliography of ringing books at <http://>

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www.cabr.org.uk/biblio.htm

Many of the books mentioned are available from Central Council Publications.

Taken from the Ringing World Issue No 4562 23rd June 2000
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Editor's Column

If you haven't already read the minutes or the situations vacant column you may not know that I have decided to step down as Newsletter editor.

Over the past few months I have had neither the inclination nor I feel the support from the district to make me wish to continue editing, or more correctly writing the newsletter - hence the lack of newsletters.

Originally I received articles from a variety of stalwart contributors, and it made the job easy - editing and typesetting are relatively straight forward. However as time has gone on the articles have dried up and I have found myself writing more and more to go in the newsletter.

In this day of electronic mail, the job should be getting easier not harder - and so I have decided to hang up the typewriter so that a new more enthusiastic editor (if one can be found) can take the newsletter on in whatever form they want.

The above sounds like I am complaining about those who supplied articles for the newsletter - that is not what is implied. The burden of writing articles should fall on the whole district not just a few. I would like to thank all those people who have supplied articles and I would apologise if I have failed to publish them.

Finally should anyone feel aggrieved at not having had their monies worth this year I will willing give a part refund on subscriptions. I propose to hold onto the funds for the Newsletter for 12 months and make them available to the new editor - if there is no successor then I will arrange for any balance to be donated to the BRF.

Jeremy Byers

Perpetual Motion - a bizarre thought

When a cat is dropped, it always lands on its feet, and when toast is dropped, it always lands buttered side down. Therefore, if a slice of toast is strapped to a cat's back, buttered

side up, and the animal is then dropped, the two opposing forces will cause it to hover, spinning inches above the ground. If enough toast-laden felines were used, they could form the basis of a high-speed monorail system.

.....and then this mail got this reply from one of the recipients:

I've been thinking about this cat/toast business for a while. In the buttered toast case, it's the butter that causes it to land buttered side down - it doesn't have to be toast, the theory works equally well with Jacob's crackers. So to save money you just miss out the toast - and butter the cats.

Also, should there be an imbalance between the effects of cat and butter, there are other substances that have a stronger affinity for carpet. Probability of carpet impact is determined by the following simple formula:

$$p = s * t(t)/tc$$

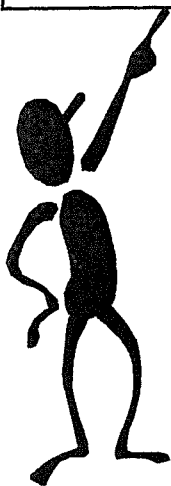
where p is the probability of carpet impact, s is the "stain" value of the toast-covering substance - an indicator of the effectiveness of the toast topping in permanently staining the carpet. Chicken Tikka Masala, for example, has a very high s value, while the s value of water is zero. tc and t(t) indicate the tone of the carpet and topping - the value of p being strongly related to the relationship between the colour of the carpet and topping, as even chicken tikka masala won't cause a permanent and obvious stain if the carpet is the same colour.

So it is obvious that the probability of carpet impact is maximised if you use chicken tikka masala and a white carpet - in fact this combination gives a p value of one, which is the same as the probability of a cat landing on its feet.

Therefore a cat with chicken tikka masala on its back will be certain to hover in mid air, while there could be problems with buttered toast as the toast may fall off the cat, causing a terrible monorail crash resulting in nauseating images of members of the royal family visiting accident victims in hospital, and politicians saying it wouldn't have happened if their party was in power as there would have been more investment in cat-toast glue research.

Therefore it is in the interests not only of public safety but also public sanity if the buttered toast on cats idea is scrapped, to be replaced by a monorail powered by cats smeared with chicken tikka masala floating above a rail made from white shag pile carpet.

Perhaps this is the answer to the petrol crisis that caused so many peal and quarter peal attempts to be cancelled.



A trip to Southwark -

or

"It's a long way up!!"

On the 14th of June, four bell-ringers from St Mark's Biggin Hill met up at the church at 5:15 pm. In the car park we bundled into Nancy Gay's car and set off for Hayes station.

At the station we met up with Monica Hanscomb, another of our crew, then went off to buy our train tickets. After much fumbling around, we eventually worked out how the ticket machine worked, and were relieved when the tickets came out of the machine. Just as we collected the tickets, our train arrived and we jumped on.

Luckily, we did not have to stand up for the half-hour train journey to London Bridge. From London Bridge, we enjoyed a leisurely five-minute walk to the cathedral. It was impossible to miss because there was a lot of scaffolding surrounding the building.

Inside the cathedral were the other people who were ringing and together we collected the key to the bell tower. We then all set off together, for the long trek up the narrow spiral staircase to the bells.

At this point, our tension began to build up as we had never before rung in a tower with twelve bells and the stairs seemed to be never ending. Ten minutes after going into the cathedral we finally reached the ringing room and then we decided to go and have a quick look at the bells.

More rickety ladders - and another climb!

Before we went up, though, they had to be rung up - the heavier bells ones requiring the efforts of two people rather than the normal one.

Going up to see the bells was interesting, as they were very large. The tenor alone was big enough to hold at least five people! It weighs eight times our tenor bell at Biggin Hill.

Some of us decided to take the opportunity to climb to the top of the tower. This included two of us - Alex Hallinan and Mark Hanscomb. From this great vantage point, we could look over a large part of London. We had a clear view of the London Eye and the Tower of London, as well as many other interesting buildings. After about five minutes we came down and started ringing.

First, we had to get used to the bells and we rang them separately. Natasha Hallinan went first, ringing the third Then Alex summoned up the courage to ring the fifth and finally, after about half an hour of not wanting to, Mark rang the third. Then we were more familiar with the feel of the bells and we rang rounds.

When you are sitting down on the bench and the other people are ringing you can actually feel the bell tower swaying because of the weight of the bells.

After our rounds the more experienced ringers rang complicated spliced methods which showed us what we should aim for (maybe by the next millennium!). It was amazing to see how easily they rang the heavy bells. Even more fun was when they rang down and Jim (on the tenor) rose up in the air.

Sadly the practice finished at half past eight and we headed off back to the station for the journey home.

This was a very valuable and enjoyable experience and the sound of the bells was very different from the peal at Saint Mark's. We thank Jim Hardy for arranging the practice. We are all hoping that we will be able to go back again and we are planning to visit other bell towers as well.

By Natasha and Alex Hallinan and Mark Hanscomb

Thank you for your article - it was great to see that you bravely returned for the second district practice at Southwark in September. Keep up the ringing and the visiting other towers - a great way to improve and meet new friends.

Maidstone District

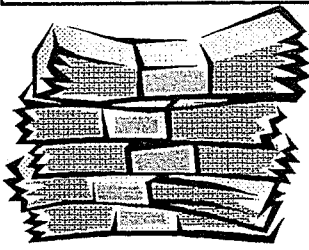
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Saturday 14th October

Maidstone District cordially invite you to
a firework and BarBQ party
at Hillside Stalisfield starting at 7-30 pm

Tickets cost £ 12 single or £ 30 family on the door
or £ 10 single or £ 25 family in advance.

Available from
Allison Gerrish 44 Langdale Rise Maidstone
Mal Williwiams 9 Foxden Drive Downswood Maidstone or
telephone 01622-861143 or 01622-763488



Fundraising ideas-

Do we want a 120 Club

The county has requested that each district make efforts to raise funds for the BRF. As far as I know the district carries out no formal fundraising each year, however the following is a suggestion that might appeal as it involves a minimum of effort and would give ongoing for years if the project were successful.

The letter explaining the idea from Maidstone is appended

Dear Secretary

At the recent AGM held at Lydd, the Hon Treasurer gave each District the challenge of raising £2000 for the Bell Restoration Fund in the year 2000. Many towers in our respective Districts have benefited from grants from the BRF over the years, and we all recognise that if other towers are to benefit in the future we must replace the funds which have been paid out.

At the recent County Committee meeting, the Maidstone District 120 Club was put forward once again as an idea for other Districts to copy to help meet the Treasurer's target. This club was formed in 1999 to help achieve the then target of £ 1 000, and this year we expect the Club to raise approximately £500. Clearly, any good idea is worth sharing and the General Committee has asked me to put together some information and guidance notes to share with other Districts.

The main purpose of this letter, therefore, is to invite your District to consider forming either your own 120 Club, or alternatively as a joint venture with one or more other Districts. Forming your own 120 Club would mean that your shareholders were making efforts to raise their own money for the BRF. Furthermore, the District would exercise control over the running of the Club.

On the other hand, combining with other Districts would create a larger Club (perhaps a 240 or 360) which would offer more prizes but with proportionately lower running costs. The only commitment an individual District would have would be to sell as many tickets (120 we hope) before the prizes are declared. Someone in each of the Districts involved would act as an agent and be responsible for sales and other administrative matters. A proportionate amount of the money raised would be recorded as part of the each District's

contribution to the BRF. Perhaps you know of someone in your District who would be willing to be an agent.

We hope that your Committee will support these ideas. If, however, they decide that they do not wish to take them forward we would be grateful if you could nevertheless inform your members of the existence of the Maidstone District 120 Club. Should they wish to take part they can complete an application form (which we hope you will make available at your meetings) and return it to myself as Promoter. Remember that no matter which District's Club you support the proceeds will ultimately benefit all Districts.

I suspect that for most Districts the main problem will be finding someone who is prepared to run a 120 Club. As Promoter of the Maidstone District 120 Club, I would be happy to offer my assistance in setting up such a Club either for your District or jointly with others. I attach a copy of our rules and conditions for your information. You can also log on to the Club's own web site at

www.maidstonedistrict120club.or.g.uk

Alternatively, please feel free to contact me for further information.

Yours sincerely

Mal Williams
Hon Promoter
Maidstone District 120 Club

Rather than copy the rules, the basic information is as follow:

Monthly draw - cost £ 10 per month

Prizes - For eight months the prizes would be

1st	£ 20
2nd	£ 15
3rd	£ 10

For two months - June and December

1st	£ 40
2nd	£ 30
3rd	£ 20

This is certainly one to think about - perhaps you could think it over and point forward your thoughts at the ADM. If we can't run our own club on its own, perhaps those interested could buy tickets through another district if nothin else.

Jermey Byers

Insurance Questions answered.

ADM A chance to air your views

Following the April meeting we have now had a response on the Insurance issues raised. The answers are as follows:

1. Would KCA Instructors be covered by the Associations' Insurance if they went to help with training in another association?

Reply - While noting that visiting instructors from other Associations must have their own insurance, it was asked whether KCA instructors would be covered when helping with training outside the County. Tim assures me that in these circumstance they are covered.

2. Would it be possible to cover visiting instructors by offering some kind of membership?

Reply - Considering the reply to the next question, I suspect that a special class of membership would have to be introduced. Tim's response confirms my thoughts; he says that this would require a change or addition to the Rules.

3. Are Non-Resident Life Members covered by the Association's insurance?

Reply - they are not.

Peter T Dale General Secretary to The Kent County Association of Change Ringers.



The ADM is your chance to let your views be heard. If you feel so strongly, perhaps you should consider getting up and having a go yourself.

The meeting sees the election of officers - nominations for

- Ringing Master
- Deputy Ringing Master
- Chairman
- Secretary
- Two district representatives to the County Committee
- Newsletter Editor

are all required.

In addition there is the usual list of events such as competitions and district meetings to host.

Ideas for social events are always welcomed

The meeting is your change to put your views across and change things should you want to.

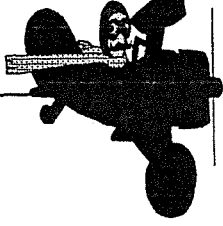
Be there at

Dartford
on
Saturday, 14th October.

Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Meeting follows service

Call Change entry form & rules enclosed with this newsletter



This space could have had your article in it

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at Horton Kirby on Saturday, 8th July 2000

The Chairman, Miss Philippa Rooke, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She also congratulated the local band on being willing to host a meeting so early in their membership of the Association. She had been able to welcome visitors from Shepshed, who had appreciated the opportunity of ringing in the service touch and had been apologetic that they were unable to stay to the business meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Byers from Beckenham, Miss J. Vale from Bexley, Mrs. M. M. Hanscomb and Mrs. E. M. Stewart from Biggin Hill, Mr. J. J. Rooke, Miss A. Wilkins, Miss M. J. Wilkins and Mr. N. Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mr. M. Jones, Mr. J. Tate and Mrs. A. Townsend from St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, Mrs. N. Robins from Crayford, Mr. M. S. Hutton from Dartford and Miss F. Cannon from Greenwich.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The following amendments were made to the minutes, which had been circulated:

Page 3: Quarter Peals

Elam should read Elham and Pettham and Penge should be transposed.

Page 3: Millennium Committee

It was agreed to add:

Mr. Don Pointer requested information on whether the county had or were going to review the success of the millennium ringing.

After noting these amendments, the minutes were signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Insurance

It was understood from Mrs. Hardy that the specific points regarding insurance had not been dealt with at the last General Committee Meeting and the Secretary was asked to take up the questions raised at the April Quarterly Meeting with Mr. Tim Wraight.

Certificate Writer

The Chairman made an renewed appeal for someone to write membership certificates.

Millennium Committee

The Chairman had not been able to draw up proposals for a continued role for the Millennium Committee. She undertook to do this during the summer and to put forward her suggestions at the Annual District Meeting, and might possibly put them in the Newsletter.

Millennium Ringing

The Chairman said that millennium ringing took place at all towers in the District and that it was understood that only a few towers in the county did not ring. A few millennium ringing certificates were given out and the Chairman undertook to obtain one for Horton Kirby.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

London County Association

A letter had been received from the London County Association inviting all London ringers to a service at Southwark Cathedral on Sunday, 19th November at 3 p.m. Members had been invited to make suggestions regarding this service. It was agreed that we would encourage our members to attend and it was decided that enquiries should be made as to whether it was intended to have a ringers' choir. If so, some members would be willing to take part.

Newsletter Editor

Mr. Byers had written to the Secretary and asked her to tender his resignation as Newsletter Editor. He proposed to issue a Newsletter in September and that would be last that he would be able to do, but he was prepared to relinquish his duties earlier if someone wished to take over at once. There were no volunteers to take over from Mr. Byers and the Chairman, who felt that the Newsletter was an excellent means of communication and would like to see it continue, asked members to think the matter over and mention the vacancy to other ringers.

Press Representative's Report

The Press Representative had submitted a brief report, which the Chairman read to the meeting. Miss Vale

mentioned that she would not be seeking re-election at the Annual District Meeting. She felt that the District would be better served by a Representative who had a p.c. and e-mail at home.

5. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

There were no elections.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Photographs

Mrs. Hardy reminded members that it had been agreed, as a millennium project, to collect photographs of all bands in the county (not just the members who rang for the millennium) and members were asked to send photographs to Mrs. Hazel Basford, the Association's Librarian.

Vice-Presidents

It was pointed out that the Association is running out of Vice-Presidents. Members were asked to give this matter consideration. Names of possible ringers should be reported to the District Representatives for submission to the November meeting of the General Committee.

Handbooks

The Secretary was asked to write to Handbook Editor, Mr. Dickon Love, and say that members were unhappy that despite the fact that a very large number of faulty Handbooks had been received and this matter had been reported to him on a number of occasions, nothing had been heard from him on this matter. It was felt that this was the one tangible thing which each member received in return for their subscription and that they should be given a complete copy.

Horton Kirby - Quiz

Continuing their fund-raising, the Horton Kirby band would be holding a Quiz in their Village Hall on the following Friday evening and tickets were available at £3. Members were urged to support this venture.

County Eight-bell Competition

Mr. Hardy announced that the District had won the County Eight-bell Competition. A Lewisham District band had now done this on six of the nine occasions on which the Competition had been held.

Ringling Practices

Mr. Hardy announced that forthcoming practices would be held as follows:

15th July at Woolwich from 7 to 9 p.m. Simple 8-bell methods.

19th August at SS Peter and Paul, Swanscombe from 7 to 8.30 p.m.

13th September (Wednesday) from 6.30 to 8.30. Mr. Hardy said that the last practice at Southwark had

been poorly attended. Good support, including a nucleus of 12-bell ringers, was needed to justify having the Southwark bells for a practice and he felt that we should relinquish our booking if insufficient ringers were interested in supporting this event. Members were asked to let Mr. Hardy know by the beginning of September if they wished to attend. Mrs. Gay said that some members of the Biggin Hill band had attended the previous practice at Southwark and had greatly enjoyed the experience of ringing at the Cathedral.

Vote of Thanks

Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Ken Mathers for conducting the service and for the use of the church and the bells, to Mr. John Williams for playing the organ and to the Horton Kirby and Dartford ringers for local arrangements and proving an excellent tea.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

LEWISHAM DISTRICT

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held at St. Nicholas, Chislehurst on Saturday, 8th April 2000

The Chairman, Miss Philippa Rooke, welcomed members to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Nicholas Wilkins and Miss Melanie Wilkins from Chelsfield, Mrs. Carol Eastaugh from Christ Church, Erith, Mr. Mark Jones from St. Nicholas, Chislehurst, Mrs. Margaret Heald from St. John's Erith, Miss Freda Cannon from Greenwich and from the Greenwich and Woolwich bands.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

After amending page 2, item 5 to read Miss Freda Cannon and page 2, item 6 to read Mrs. Fiona Byers, the minutes were confirmed and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Downe. It was reported that the Downe bells would probably be back in use later in the month.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Maidstone District Open Day

The Secretary had received details of the Maidstone District Open day on 29th May. Miss Andrews undertook to E-mail a copy to Mr. Hardy so that the information could be put on the District website.

5. INSURANCE

(Continued from page 13)

Following a letter in *The Ringing World* on 21st January 2000, correspondence concerning public liability insurance had been sent to the Secretary by the General Secretary and was read to the meeting by the Chairman. Set out below are questions which were asked and it was agreed that they should be referred to the General Secretary.

- a. It was noted that visiting instructors from another Association must have their own insurance. Would K.C.A. instructors be covered by the Association's insurance if they went to help with training in another Association?
- b. Would it be possible to cover visiting instructors by offering them some kind of membership?
- c. Are Non-Resident Life Members covered by the Association's insurance?
- d. When these questions had been resolved, would it be possible to send a note to each District clarifying the situation?

6. ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected:

CRAYFORD

Mr. Mick Salter	Proposed by Mrs. Nancy Robins Seconded by Mr. Rupert Cheeseman
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Mrs. Debra Say	Proposed by Mr. Rupert Cheeseman Seconded by Mrs. Nancy Robins
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NON-RESIDENT LIFE MEMBER

Ratification of an election prior to a peal at Crayford on Saturday 11th March:

Mr. Andrew Sparling	Proposed by Mrs. Cathy Cheeseman Seconded by Mr. Rupert Cheeseman
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7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Certificate Writer

A request was made for someone to write membership certificates. Anyone who was able to undertake this task was invited to contact the Secretary.

Striking Competition

Five bands had entered the Striking Competition at Shoreham on 1st April. It had been won by Bromley with

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Chelsfield taking second place. It was reported that the judge, Mr. David Baverstock, had done a good job.

Horton Kirby

Horton Kirby were practising on their own bells on Thursday evenings. Visitors who were willing to help would be welcome.

Beckenham Quiz Night

Mr. Hardy reported that the Beckenham Quiz Night had been a success.

Website

Mr. Hardy said that the District had its own website -www.callnetuk.com/home/jameshardy/lewishamdistrict-news.htm

Practices and Competitions

Mr. Hardy said that details of District practices would appear in the Newsletter. He went on to make a plea for more bands to enter District Competitions.

Ring-in 2000 T-shirts

Miss Jessica Vale said that more T-shirts could be obtained provided that she received orders before Easter.

Quarter Peals

Mr. Rooke pointed out that in the Quarter Peal details in The Ringing World, Elam had appeared as Eltham and Penge as Pettham.

Sidcup - Wedding

A request for ringers for a wedding at Sidcup on 27th May, 3.30 service,, was made by Mrs. Yvonne Wright. Anyone able to help was asked to contact her.

Collection for St. Nicholas Church

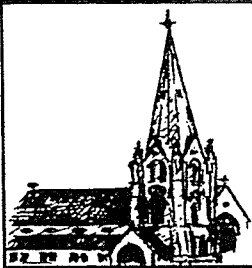
Since no collection had been taken during the service, Mr. Long said that he would leave a plate at the door.

Millennium Committee

There were no suggestions from members about a future role for the Millennium Committee so the Chairman said that she would put a proposal forward at the next meeting.

Votes of Thanks

Mr. Rooke proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Ron Smith for conducting the service, particularly as he had done this at short notice, to Mr. Roger Long for playing the organ and the local band for an excellent tea.



Around and About the district

Write these dates in your diary NOW

Sat 14th October.

ADM - Dartford

The Annual District Meeting will be held at Dartford on Bells 3.00 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m.

Names for tea to Esther Correia, (01322 220458) please, by the previous Wednesday.

Sat 18th November

Call Change Competition - Eltham

Draw at 2-30

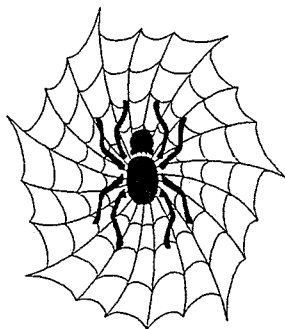
Entry forms with entry fees to Mary Andrews **BEFORE** 11th November 2000

Sat 9th December

District Carol Service St John's Sidcup

Service at 4-30 pm with ringing for half an hour before the service and afterwards until 7-30pm Seasonal refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Yvonne Wright (Rebecca-wright@compuserve.com).



What's been happening - News from the Website

District Practice at Woolwich

Thank you to all those who attended the practice at St.Mary's Woolwich on the 15th of July. Your attendance made this a worthwhile practice. There were 31 members present and we rang Call-changes, Plain Bob Major and Triples, Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Cambridge S.Major, Plain Hunt on 7, and to finish a touch of 5-spliced S. Major (B,S,N,C,Y). These are a difficult ring of bells, and only 100% effort yields good ringing here - and we did have some good ringing. I hope that this achievement will spur us on to perform well when we visit Swanscombe in August, and that members will

all benefit from these improved practices. I know I do!! (p.s. the Pub was good too!!). Thank you to Bill Lanyon and all at Woolwich for making us welcome.

District Practice at Swanscombe

The practice at Swanscombe on August 19th was again well attended, although some more experienced help would have been useful as the bells were quite tricky. We rang call-changes, Grandsire and Stedman, and on the whole the ringing was ok. Thanks to all of the supporters.

District Practice at Southwark Cathedral

The practice at Southwark on Wednesday 13th September was very successful, mainly due to good attendance! There were around 30 people there, and we rang call-changes, plain hunt on 11, Grandsire caters and some 4-spliced S.Major on the back eight. Thank you to everyone who came. If people feel that they enjoyed and benefited from this practice then I would be happy to arrange some more. Please let me know.

District meeting at Horton Kirby

The meeting at Horton Kirby on the 8th July was a great success, and the hospitality of the local band was warmly received. After a cheerful service, the meeting was held. During the meeting, a number of points remaining from the last meeting i.e. the errors in the Handbook and insurance details still remained un-resolved. It would appear that we still need some answers to these questions, since for £9 a year, we receive a Handbook with errors and insurance for which we know very few details; not good enough.

Jeremy Byers, Newsletter editor, could not be present at the meeting, but stated by letter that he intends to resign from this post. He has done an excellent job as editor, and I hope that someone will step forward to continue his work. I personally feel that there is no doubt as to the positive role that the Newsletter plays, and that we should make every effort to see that its publication continues. If you feel that you could help, please step forward.

After the meeting, general ringing continued the proceedings until 8.00 p.m. I think everyone agreed that the hard work that has been done on the tower and bells is a total success, and that the local ringers are progressing very well.

Queen Mother: 100th Birthday

So far as I am aware, only three quarters and one peal were attempted for this occasion, of which two of the quarters were successful. They were: Beckenham, 1260 Grandsire Triples, and Crayford, 1300 Plain Bob Doubles. Well done to those who took part in these attempts. It does seem a little disappointing that in a district of 31 towers, only 4 managed to attempt anything at all, unless they didn't tell me that is. Perhaps we should resurrect the District quarter peal week to spur people on ...your comments please (by e-mail).

James Hardy